(b) whether Government have given any direction to the Food Corporation of India regarding direct purchase of millet from farmers at the support price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The Government had announced the Price Policy for Kharif Crops of 2004-05 season, including millets, on 10th August, 2004. Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for millets, namely, Bajra and Jowar have been fixed at Rs. 515 per qunital each compared to Rs. 505 per quintal each fixed for 2003-04 season.

(b) and (c) Procurement of coarse grains, including Bajra and Jowar, from farmers under price support operations is presently being entirely undertaken by the State Governments and their Agencies.

Suicides in Maharashtra

480. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that so many farmers have committed suicide in Maharashtra recently in the month of January and February, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether Government have provided any incentives to their families; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and other requisite steps being taken by Government to check the farmers' suicide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Revival of closed fertilizer units

†481. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government propose to revive closed fertilizer units in public sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) In the light of the Government's Common Minimum Programme (CMP), the issue regarding the feasibility of revival of the closed Fertilizer Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) based on market demand and their techno-economic viability has been prepared by Projects and Development India Limited (PDIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of fertilizers. The revival of these units will depend on the outcome of the examination of the report of PDIL.

Shortage and black marketing of fertilizers

482. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation/complaints about the shortage, non availability and black marketing of dry ammonia phosphate for Rabi crops in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or propose to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is a decontrolled fertilizer and its availability depends on market forces of demand and supply. The availability of DAP in Rabi 2004-05 season was ensured as per assessed requirement. However, there has been an increase of about 16% in the sale of DAP upto 15.2.2205 during the current season due to which some States like Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have represented about stress in availability of DAP in some districts/areas within the State. Necessary interventions were made by coordinating with suppliers, States and Railways to make DAP available as per assessed requirement. No reports of Black Marketing of DAP have been received from any State Government during the period.